

**AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1- 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;  
receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;  
detecting in said received request a request to access an attribute ~~attributed~~ declared as a real-time external attribute;  
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;  
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a ~~first-value format~~ real-time attribute to a static attribute ~~second-value format~~, wherein said real-time attribute ~~first-value format~~ is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said static attribute ~~second-value format~~ is compatible with said directory access protocol; and  
returning to a requester said ~~converted~~ real-time ~~value~~ attribute ~~directly~~ in said ~~second-format attribute value according to said~~ directory access protocol, wherein while suppressing or ~~avoiding~~ storing and updating of said converted real-time attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.

Claims 9 - 11 (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

13. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said returning-comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

Claims 14 - 19 (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A computer readable memory comprising:  
a computer readable memory suitable for encoding computer programs; and  
one or more computer programs encoded by said computer readable memory and configured to:  
provide at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute  
associated with but external to a directory structure;  
receive a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from  
said associated directory structure;  
detect in said received request a request to access an attribute ~~attributed~~ declared as a  
real-time external attribute;  
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolve a real-time value  
by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory  
structure;  
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a ~~first-value  
format~~ real-time attribute to a static attribute ~~second-value-format~~, wherein said  
real-time attribute ~~first-value-format~~ is incompatible with said directory access  
protocol, and wherein said static attribute ~~second-value-format~~ is compatible with  
said directory access protocol; and  
return ~~returning~~ to a requester said converted real-time ~~value~~ attribute directly in said  
~~second-format attribute value according to said directory access protocol, wherein~~  
~~while suppressing or avoiding storing and updating~~ of said converted real-time  
attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.
21. (previously presented) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said  
detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute  
values.
22. (previously presented) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said  
returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

23. (currently amended) A system comprising a hardware means for performing a logical process, wherein said logical process comprises:  
providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;  
receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;  
detecting in said received request a request to access an attribute ~~attributed~~ declared as a real-time external attribute;  
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;  
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a ~~first value format~~ real-time attribute to a static attribute ~~second value format~~, wherein said ~~first value format~~ real-time attribute is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said static attribute ~~second value format~~ is compatible with said directory access protocol; and  
returning to a requester said ~~converted~~ real-time attribute ~~directly value~~ in said ~~second format~~ attribute value according to said directory access protocol, wherein while suppressing or ~~avoiding~~ storing and updated of said converted real-time attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.
24. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part a microprocessor.
25. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part an electronic circuit.
26. (currently amended) The system as set forth in Claim 25 wherein said electronic circuit is selected from a group comprising an application specific integrated circuit, and a programmable logic circuit.
27. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.
28. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

29. (new) The method of Claim 8 wherein said resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

30. (new) The method of Claim 29 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.

31. (new) The computer readable memory of Claim 20 wherein said resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

32. (new) The computer readable memory of Claim 31 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.

33. (new) The system of Claim 23 wherein said logical process resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises a logical process selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

34. (new) The system of Claim 33 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.